



Maine Department of Corrections

MDOC COVID-19 Testing Plan

Effective October 15, 2020

On June 17, 2020, MDOC began conducting COVID-19 testing at its facilities, requiring testing at key “actionable points” in Department operations. On October 15, 2020, the MDOC’s testing plan expanded with the introduction of rapid COVID-19 testing capability. This plan continues to evolve as the Department’s response to COVID-19 evolves. *This plan has been reviewed and is supported by the Maine CDC.*

All COVID-19 positive results will be immediately reported to the MDOC’s Incident Command by the facility CAO. All COVID-19 testing at MDOC facilities and results will be tracked and reported utilizing the facility’s tracking sheet, reported to MDOC Incident Command by 5pm, daily.

This plan does not alter or replace current isolation/quarantine practices in place at facilities related to the MDOC’s COVID-19 response plan.

Testing at Actionable Points (PCR Testing via HETL)

- Any MDOC client or staff member (on-site) with a positive BinaxNOW test result should have a PCR test (via HETL) to confirm the presence of COVID-19.
- If one positive case of COVID-19 is diagnosed in a client in the facility, the facility must conduct **universal COVID-19 (PCR) testing** of all staff and clients at the facility (in accordance with the ME CDC Guidance).
 - Similarly, if one positive case of COVID-19 is diagnosed in a staff member on-site in the facility, the facility will implement a protocol for testing staff and clients, in consultation with the CDC.
- COVID-19 (PCR) testing will occur for all new **admissions** to all MDOC facilities (within 48 hours of admission);
 - All new admits from non-MDOC facilities will be quarantined for 14 days upon admission to MDOC, and COVID-19 tested within 48 hours of admission;
- COVID-19 (PCR) testing will occur for all **facility-to-facility MDOC client transfers**, up to 72 hours prior to transferring from the sending facility (transfer will be pending results);
 - All transfers, upon negative test result and transfer to another facility, will be isolated and monitored by medical at the receiving facility for 72 hours, prior to being moved into non-COVID-19 housing;
 - Clients are not required to be re-tested once received at the receiving MDOC facility, following the transfer;



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- COVID-19 (PCR) testing will occur following all **in-person court trips** (within 24 hours of their return to the facility) when the transport is conducted by a non-MDOC agency;
 - Court trips in this category, upon return to the MDOC facility, will be quarantined and monitored for 14 days, prior to being returned into non-COVID-19 housing;
 - Court trips conducted by MDOC staff do not require COVID-19 testing and/or quarantine, unless requested by the facility CAO;
- COVID-19 (PCR) testing will occur for clients returning from community **medical trips** (within 48 hours of their return to the facility);
 - The quarantine placement will be determined by the facility's quarantine plan and the length of quarantine will be determined by the location of the medical trip, the risk of transmission at the medical site, and other potential COVID-19 exposure risks (the standard quarantine period is 14 days);
 - Clients with regular/multiple community medical appointments are not required to be COVID-19 tested after each appointment, unless they are symptomatic. Individual cases may be staffed/consulted with the MDOC Health Services Coordinator;
- COVID-19 (PCR) testing will occur for clients participating in a **facility's Hospice/Helping Hands program** (at least 24 hours prior to their first day of hospice/helping hands assignment);
 - Participating clients will complete a COVID-19 symptom screening prior to entrance into the hospice/medical housing area, and after their completed assignment, daily;
- COVID-19 (PCR) testing will occur for clients returning from **death bed visits and funeral trips** (within 48 hours of their return to the facility);
 - The quarantine placement will be determined by the facility's quarantine plan and the length of quarantine will be determined by the location of the death bed visit or funeral trip, the risk of transmission at the site, and other potential COVID-19 exposure risks (the standard quarantine period is 14 days);
- COVID-19 (PCR) testing will occur for clients participating in a work release assignment, including **work release assignment, upon placement and randomly**;
 - Any client selected and assigned to work release will be COVID-19 tested at least 48 hours prior to their first day of employment in the community;
 - While work release remains non-public-facing, at least monthly, the facility CAO will ensure no less than 50% of the work release clients at the facility are randomly selected for COVID-19 testing;
- COVID-19 (PCR) testing will occur for clients **terminated from work release assignments**;
 - Any client terminated from a work release assignment will be quarantined for 14 days upon return to the facility, and COVID-19 tested within 24 hours of their return;



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- COVID-19 (PCR) testing will occur for all releasing clients as part of the **release** process, with the test completed at least 72 hours prior to release;
 - If the test is positive:
 - The MDOC will notify ME CDC of any releasing MDOC client testing positive;
 - If applicable, the MDOC will notify Adult/Juvenile Community Corrections and any residential placement of a releasing MDOC client testing positive;
 - If the test is negative:
 - If applicable, the MDOC will notify Adult/Juvenile Community Corrections and any residential placement of a releasing MDOC client testing negative;
 - If the client refuses the test:
 - If applicable, the MDOC will notify Adult/Juvenile Community Corrections and any residential placement of a releasing MDOC client refusing to be tested;

Rapid Testing (BinaxNOW Testing)

- BinaxNow COVID-19 test kits will be ordered by facilities through the MDOC's Incident Command;
 - While the BinaxNOW is known to identify COVID-19 in symptomatic individuals, less is known about its application in asymptomatic individuals. MDOC's use of the BinaxNOW will be strictly limited, as outlined below.
- BinaxNow COVID-19 testing will occur when a MDOC client or staff member (working on-site) is suspected of COVID-19 because they are exhibiting [symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 infection](#), and who are within the first seven days of onset of symptoms (**symptomatic**);
 - Symptomatic cases will be tested using the BinaxNow test at the order of the Regional Medical Director, and will be subsequently staffed with the MDOC Health Services Coordinator, Regional Medical Director, and MDOC Incident Command to determine any additional measures necessary;
 - A negative BinaxNOW test result is strongly suggestive (99%+ accuracy) that the individual does not have COVID-19. However, individuals who are acutely ill with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 and a high pre-test probability of having COVID-19 (e.g. close contact of someone with known COVID-19) should be further evaluated for the possibility of conducting additional testing with a PCR test (via HETL);
 - A positive BinaxNOW test result indicates that the individual is a probable COVID-19 case and should have a PCR test (via HETL) to confirm the presence of COVID-19. A positive BinaxNOW test result must be individually managed as a positive case pending the confirmation PCR test;
 - Following appropriate COVID-19 specimen collection and while test results are pending, the client and any roommates should be isolated and monitored by medical staff. Any staff member should be isolated at home and monitored by a medical provider in the community;
- Any other use of the BinaxNOW COVID-19 testing requires the pre-approval of the MDOC's Incident Command team and Regional Medical Director;